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Playfair, that the Peace Congress held the week previous in this city, over which he, Mr. Field, had had the honor to preside was perhaps less practical than this Conference in its aims.

"I hear people declare us to be visionary enthusiasts, dreamers and unpractical folk, chasing after a phantom. But stop a moment. Is it true we are unpractical? What is that prayer we hear Sunday after Sunday: 'Give peace in our time, oh, Lord!' What does that mean? It means that we have the consciences of the world with us. Things change as time rolls on. Suppose the common people in the time of the Plantagenets and Tudors had claimed the right to manage the affairs of the nation, what would the nobles have said, and what will the nobles say now? Things have changed and things will change, and the church bells over all the world ringing peace will finally be heard. We are called unpractical, but when the German Emperor demands more battalions for his armies and a representative of the groaning German people rises in the Reichstag and asks with whose blood and whose money those battalions are to be paid for, is that unpractical? And when the statistician tells you, Englishmen, that during the whole of this century for every pound of public money raised, 16 shillings 3½ pence have been spent for war, is that unpractical? And when you learn that to-day, out of 670 members of the House of Commons, that there are 234 who signed the petition to President Cleveland, 1888, and who are ready to vote for an arbitration treaty, and that if only 100 more will join us the problem is solved. Is that unpractical? If they do it, a majority is secured. The British nation will have spoken by its highest representative body. It says to the United States, here is our right hand of fellowship in Arbitration. The English-speaking people can but follow such leading, and the civilized world will not be far behind. Is not that practical?"

"Ideas precede actions. Resolutions or some form of expressing popular convictions come before laws. Discussions pave the way for agreements. Laws are developed into institutions. No, we are *not* unpractical, but the most practical of men. We have set ourselves to form and arouse that public opinion, which is now the fountain of all legislation—the real sovereign of nations. We appeal to that public conscience, which when awakened compels practical measures. We hold up the enormous expense, the compelled poverty, the cruelty, the injustice and iniquity of war. We protest against its ghastly horrors as things the nineteenth century should allow to perish with its concluding years.

"And we shall succeed. Let no man falter in a cause so righteous,—may I not say, so holy. I close with those words of Faber so often on our lips and pens during the darkest days of our Civil War:

"For right is right since God is God
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin."

THE VOICE OF AMERICAN STATESMEN.

Not the least interesting feature of the Interparliamentary Conference, in London, was the reading of the following letters from the chairmen respectively of the Committee on Foreign Relations for the Senate and of Foreign Affairs for the House:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
UNITED STATES SENATE,
June 12, 1890.

HON. PHILIP STANHOPE:

My dear Sir—Your note of the 14th inst. is just received. I am much pleased with your kind approval of the action of Congress on arbitration in international disputes. It does seem to me that the next step in this good cause would be some recognition by Parliament, or at least by your ministry of a somewhat similar character. The feeling in favor of arbitration in all national disputes that do not involve the autonomy of a country, and especially questions involving merely matters of claim, or of disputed boundaries, or of commercial privileges, is that they should be in every case, which cannot be settled by ordinary negotiation, submitted to arbitration organized upon some basis which would secure confidence in the judgment to be rendered. No nation is too great and none too small to resort to such a peaceful remedy, for disputes that are incident to all human affairs. In the recent American conference the principle of arbitration was approved, and has been since ratified by a great majority of the nations represented in the conference, and, I believe, will be formally agreed to by the governments represented. If it is possible under your forms of proceeding to have such a resolution assented to by Parliament, it will be far the most effective step yet taken to promote the peace of nations.

Very respectfully yours, JOHN SHERMAN.

Congressman Hitt's Letter.

COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.
WASHINGTON, June 3, 1890.

W. RANDAL CREMER, Esq., Secretary International Parliamentary Conference:

Dear Sir—Your letter of invitation to the conference which will assemble next month in London is received. It would give me great pleasure to share in your deliberations, and I would gladly attend if my public duties here would permit me to be absent at that time, but Congress will probably then be in session.

During the intervening year since the last conference, the progress of public opinion on this continent toward the general adoption of arbitration as a means of settling national differences has been most encouraging. The deliberations of the International American Conference mark a great advance in the cause of peace. This House of Representatives on the 3d of April, 1890, on my motion, adopted by a unanimous voice a concurrent resolution already adopted by the Senate.

With my heartiest good wishes to you in your efforts in this great cause, which we anxiously hope may advance in your hemisphere as rapidly as here.

I am, with high respect, very truly yours,

ROBERT R. HITT.

THE GREAT WAR SYNDICATE. By Frank R. Stockton.
New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.

Nothing that Mr. Stockton has published since "Rudder Grange," is as delightful as this most serious absurdity, so clever a parody on many of our modern business methods, and so charming a *reductio ad absurdum* of the modern art of war. The Peace Society ought to circulate this wholesale.—*N. Y. Evangelist.*